

#160/D/mm

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

LOCARNINI et alAtty. Ref.: **2551-28**Serial No. **09/306,420**Group: **1648**Filed: **May 6, 1999**Examiner: **Mosher, M.**For: **VIRAL VARIANTS AND METHODS FOR DETECTING
SAME**

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January 24, 2001Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231**VIA FACSIMILE 703-305-7401**

Sir:

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT

Supplemental to the Amendment filed November 13, 2000, entry and
consideration of the following amendments and remarks are requested.

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows.

21. (Thrice Amended) A method according to claim 19 or 20 wherein the assay
detects a mutation which results in at least one amino acid substitution selected from
the group consisting of Ile509Val, Phe512Leu, Val519Leu, Pro523Leu, Leu526Met,
Ile533Leu, Met550Val/Ile, Ser559Thr, Arg/Trp499Glu, Thr530Ser.

Add the following claims.

24. (new) A variant according to claim 23 wherein said DNA virus is hepatitis B
virus (HBV).